(a) whether the extra dssistance sought during tne current financial year has been provided so fer, gi\ing the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be furnished.

2055. *[Transferred to the 16th March,* 1994].

World Bank Assistance to States

2056. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleas ed to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that World Bank has decided to provide direct assistance to States;

(b) if so, the details of the States to which World Bank has decided to provide loans and the sectors: and

(e) what wiH be the Central Government's role in case of World bank's direct assistance to states?

THE MINISTER OF STATE EN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Opposition to closing of Uniyiable Bank branches

2057. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the trade union leaders opposed the closure of unviable branches and privatiration of nationalised banks.

(b) whether it is also a fact that they wanted several clauses to be removed to improve the recovery of bad debts; and

(c) what are the future plans of Gov-ermment in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Representations have been received from trade unions in this regard. During the meeting of the Finance Atinis-ter with the leaders of the trade unions in January, 1994 the apprehensions of the trade union leaders as regards closure of branches and privatisation of banks were allayed.

(b) No specific proposal has been received in this regard.

(c) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have proposed to tne banks concerned that some of the chronic loss making branches which are unlikely to improve their financial position despite all efforts may either be coverted into 'recovery' branches or closed down. The number of branches to be closed down would be around 100.

Evolving a new concept of. Industrial Sickness

2058. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIR-LA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the PHD Chambers of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has urged Government to evolve a new con cept for evaluating industrial sickness:

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on the view of PHDCCI;

(c) whether Government propose to give more powers to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE PR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) to (d) The PHD Chambers of Conmerce and Industry (PHDCCI) has submitted a memorandmn to Government in the context of the recommendations contained in the Report of the Committee on Industrial Sickness and Corporate Restruoturing. The recommendatioiis are under consideration of Government.